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ABSTRACT

This book is designed for courses that prepare college and university students for undergraduate or graduate degrees in school library media. Its objectives are to teach basic reference processes, sources, services, and skills and to provide authentic school library media reference scenarios for reflection and guided application. The book addresses current issues and concepts of reference sources and services as they concern today's library media specialists and offers practical examples to give prospective media specialists insight into the situations that arise in school library media centers. The manual is divided into five parts. "Part I: What Is Reference All About?" discusses reference processes, sources, and services, focusing on the human side of reference work. It addresses significant school library media reference terminology, techniques, and concepts, as well as research processes and models. Selection, evaluation, and maintenance of the reference collection are also discussed-methods and sources of discovering the appropriate print and electronic reference materials for the school library media situation, as well as effective organization of the collection. "Part II: Nuts and Bolts" speaks about the actual types of reference sources used in modern school library media centers, including bibliographies, directories, almanacs, yearbooks, handbooks, biographical sources, dictionaries, encyclopedias, geographical sources, indexes, and abstracts. Print and electronic sources are not addressed separately but occur together throughout the chapters. "Part III: The Art of Questioning" discusses the reference interview. "Part IV: Reference for the New Millennium" specifically addresses modern technological transformations and looks at the future of school library media. "Part V: Scenarios: Situations, Problems, and Solutions" consists of practical scenarios--a look into the real world of school library media reference services. These chapters are divided into elementary, middle, and high school levels, encompassing both large and small school library media centers in both urban and rural settings. The situations include both practical and philosophical aspects of reference services for library media specialists. Following each situation is a list of questions for consideration and reflection. Contains publisher information, references, glossary and an index. (AEF)

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